the **Richmond Review**

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SFMTA's Tumlin Addresses Post-COVID Muni Issues

By Thomas K. Pendergast

Muni bus service is slowly rolling away from the disaster of a recent pandemic and, judging by the information shared at a Jan. 18 meeting at the Richmond Recreation Center, all eyes now look toward its near and distant future.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Director of Transportation Jeffrey Tumlin faced a room full of locals at a Planning Association for the Richmond (PAR) meeting. He described the catastrophic effect that the COVID-19 pandemic had on Muni.

"During the worst days of the lockdown, as much as 70% of our workforce was in quarantine, forcing us to radically rethink the Muni system, but then also invent a whole array of other programs in order to help San Franciscans – particularly essential workers – get around," Tumlin said.

Now that it is looking at the virus mostly in the rear-view mirror, the agency still has to navigate the financial impact the pandemic caused.

Prior to the pandemic, Muni was funded by bus fares, parking fees and money from the City's general fund.

The loss of downtown commuters, tourists and general business travelers threw a wrench in the agency's gears, and it has been trying to recoup its revenue flow ever since.

"There are (the equivalent of) 15 Salesforce towers of empty office space in downtown San Francisco," Tumlin said.

Plus, Muni went through two years of a hiring freeze, so staffing is now down by about 1,200 workers. Its current hiring system can only process enough people to keep up with how many are leaving.

He also claimed that the

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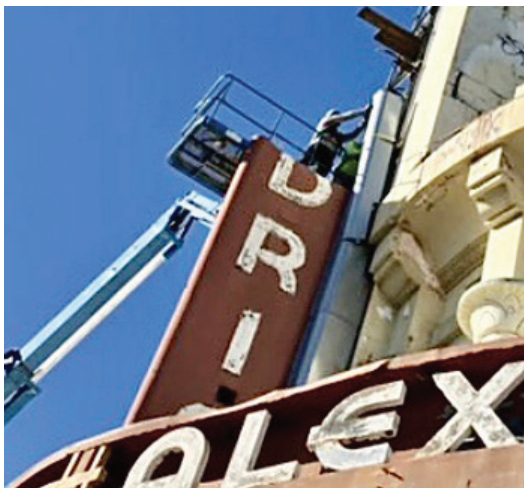
Sign of the Times



Above and Right: A worker dismantles the Alexandria Theatre blade sign. *Photos by Woody LaBounty*. Below: The theater in 1956. *Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.*

Alexandria Theatre Deteriorates, Blade Sign Removed

By Thomas K. Pendergast

The atmospheric rivers of wind and rainstorms slamming the Bay Area and California this winter not only downed trees and caused fatalities, they also led to the demise of a Richmond District icon.

The blade sign on the venerable Alexandria Theatre – a fixture on Geary Boulevard and 18th Avenue for nearly a century – was damaged to the point that the property owners had to have it taken down. City inspectors from the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) on Jan. 10 because the sign was deemed a public safety hazard.

The department's NOV states that a section of the sign was unattached from the building, creating a potentially unsafe condition as the bottom of the sign dangled about 50 feet above the sidewalk.

The building's owners, TimeSpace Group, were required by the NOV to "obtain the services of a licensed professional, preferably a structural engineer, to assess the situation. Then they must either secure or remove the damaged sign and install barricades at the perimeter of the area deemed unsafe."

The owners decided to do the latter and cut the sign down.

Although the building has not been given landmark status by the City, elements of the building, like the blade sign and the marquee, are considered historical resources.

"I called the property owners as well as DBI to urge everybody to work together to preserve the sign – not just the sign but the façade of the theater, as well as the light fixtures and

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Review: Artist's Creative Work Opens Gallery at 4 Star

By Alyson Wong

Every so often we are lucky to encounter someone who has managed the feat of remaining undeniably themselves.

With his signature inches-high slicked back pompadour (like a cool modern-day cassowary bird), classic angular, black-rimmed Wayfarer glasses, punk rock high-top Chuck Taylor sneakers and vibrantly colored tattoos peeking out from cuffed pants and rolled up sleeves, Clam Lynch is one such person.

Both his way of showing up in the world and his paintings fuse seeming contradictions of otherworldliness and groundedness, loose experimentation and considered precision, as well as chaos and harmony with an ever-present undercurrent of warmth and meaning that continue to captivate many.

His well-received gallery show titled, "The Art of Clam Lynch," opened on Dec. 17 at the 4 Star Theater's newly unveiled art gallery. It is open to the public until an undetermined date in February. The show includes 17 custom paintings which emanate with Lynch's signature style incorporating bright bold primary colors and surrealist and spiritual undertones mixed with a vintage cartoonish influence.

His works range in size from a three-inch-by-three-inch piece like "Wolf Bulb," featuring a wolf wearing a top hat inside a lightbulb surrounded by archetypal symbols, to taller works like "Good Morning Moose" with a prismatic moose figure. At the time of writing, around half of the works have sold with 100% of the proceeds going to the artist – the theater doesn't take a cut. Lynch has chosen to dedicate a portion of the proceeds to support Babylon Burning, a much-loved 45-year family legacy-owned and locally operated screen-printing business that experienced a recent

Artist Clam Lynch poses in front of a few of his works that were on display at the new art gallery at the 4 Star Theater at 2200 Clement St. *Photo by Alyson Wong.*

fire at its SoMa shop.

Lynch is a self-taught artist. His process is uniquely his own. He prefers acrylic and varnish and paints on furnished maple box frames (which he makes himself) for their smooth surfaces. Lynch often works on three paintings at a time which he lays on the ground while working on his knees so that he can "really look at them."

Lynch often begins with an image idea which he sources from dreams (he has a journal by his bed to jot down notes), his magazine stack archive or the oddities of daily life. The end result is not known to him

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Looking Back

Kinen Carvala

Washington Elm

How many different dates has George Washington's birthday been assigned officially?

A marker by the base of an elm tree in Golden Gate Park has the inscription:

Under the parent of this tree, Washington first took command of the American Army, July 3, 1775 Planted by San Francisco Chapter Sons of the American Revolution 1932

The dedication and planting of the elm tree occurred instead on Feb. 22, 1933, with the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Daughters of the American Revolution and Boy Scouts. Members of The Sons of the American Revolution, which donated the marker, are male descendants of patriots from the American Revolution; the local San Francisco chapter, founded on Oct. 22, 1875, continues to hold monthly meetings. The SAR April 1933 bulletin noted the San Francisco chapter purchased a 12-foot-tall "pedigreed and lineal descendant" of the parent Cambridge elm to plant in Golden Gate Park as described above on George Washington's 201st birthday.

When George Washington was born in Popes Creek Plantation Virginia, his birthday was Feb. 11, 1731, under the Julian calendar used then. The British Calendar Act of 1751 implemented the Gregorian calendar (commissioned by Pope Gregory XIII) in the British Empire, which skipped 11 days between Sept. 2 and 14, 1752. The year's first day changed from March 25 under the "Old Style" dates to Jan. 1 under "New Style." George Washington's date of birth under the Gregorian calendar became Feb. 22, 1732, according to the National Park Service. Julian and Gregorian calendars have different leap-year rules.

In the U.S., the Uniform Monday Holiday Law of 1971 shifted the federal holiday of Washington's Birthday to the third Monday in February, according to historian C. L. Arbelbide, writing in Prologue magazine. Ironically, this holiday never lands on Washington's actual birthday, Feb. 22 on the Gregorian calendar.

While it doesn't look very impressive in the winter, the deciduous elm tree near the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park will become a beautiful shade tree in the summer. It is a "pedigreed and lineal descendant" of the elm under which George Washington first took command of the Continental Army. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Washington worked as a surveyor from 1749 to 1752, mostly on the frontier of northern Virginia, according to the Founders Online website of the National Archives. He led a diplomatic expedition in the winter of 1753-54 passing along a demand from Virginia's governor for the French to abandon their forts in the Ohio Valley in response to British and French disputes over the area.

During the American Revolution, the Thirteen Colonies' Continental Congress voted in 1775 for Washington to be commander-in-chief of the Continental Army due to his experience in the French and Indian War from 1753 to 1758. Washington, fighting for the British during that war's Battle of the Monongahela, "behaved with extraordinary poise under fire" and managed a British retreat after his commander was shot, according to historian David Preston in Smithsonian Magazine.

The tale and location of Washington taking command in 1775 was associated with a real elm tree in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Though Washington did take command of the Continental Army in July 1775, contemporary diary entries of soldiers include "Nothing remarkable today"— not about any grand ceremonial review of the troops at that parent elm tree. The Cambridge Historical Commission traced the myth of Washington under the elm to a fictitious journal published in 1876 for celebrating the U.S.'s centennial. Historian Fred W. Anderson titled his article "The Hinge of the Revolution: George Washington Confronts a People's Army, July 3, 1775" because he saw Washington taking command as important not because of a mythical elm tree ceremony, but because Washington set out to mold the troops into a Continental Army for the entire emerging American nation rather than a mindset of fighting only for the sake of their familiar local places and residents.

George Washington married widow Martha Dandridge Custis on Jan. 6, 1759, gaining two stepchildren. George Washington never had any biological children. He owned slaves but arranged in his will for them to be freed after his and Martha's deaths, an unusual step for the time, according to J. L. Bell writing for the National Park Service's Northeast Region History Program. (Find an archive of stories covering Controversial Murals at George Washington High School at RichmondSunsetNews.com.)

American independence was declared in 1776. Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent country and formally ended the American Revolution with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The Constitution of the United States was ratified in 1788.

George Washington was not formally educated, unlike many others in the Continental Congress, i.e., Founding Fathers, according to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

As presiding officer of the Constitutional Convention, George Washington stayed relatively quiet, while delegates debated aspects of government like what kind of executive the U.S. should have, according to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Ten states ratified the Constitution and chose their state's electors to participate in the Electoral College's first presidential election in 1789. Depending on the state, electors were appointed by the state legislature or governor, or by popular vote, according to the Washington Papers website. Each elector voted for two separate people. The person with the most votes became president; the person with the second-most votes became vice president. Though there was no public campaigning done before the election, Washington was considered the likely favorite before the electors' ballots were unsealed and counted, according to Marcus Cunliffe, contributor to History of American Presidential Elections, 1789-2001.

Washington had the most votes, one vote from each elector. John Adams came in second, becoming vice president. George Washington was president of the United States from 1789 to 1797.

The American elm (Ulmus americana) is native to the U.S. Midwest and East Coast. American elm is a long-lived species, often living 175 to 200 years, with some older than 300 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The elm is at the northwest corner of JFK Promenade and Conservatory Drive West, the same intersection as Stop #7 of the Golden Gate Park Shuttle, stop name "Conservatory of Flowers."

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Find an archive of "Looking Back" columns by Kinan Carvala on the history behind the monuments in Golden Gate Park at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

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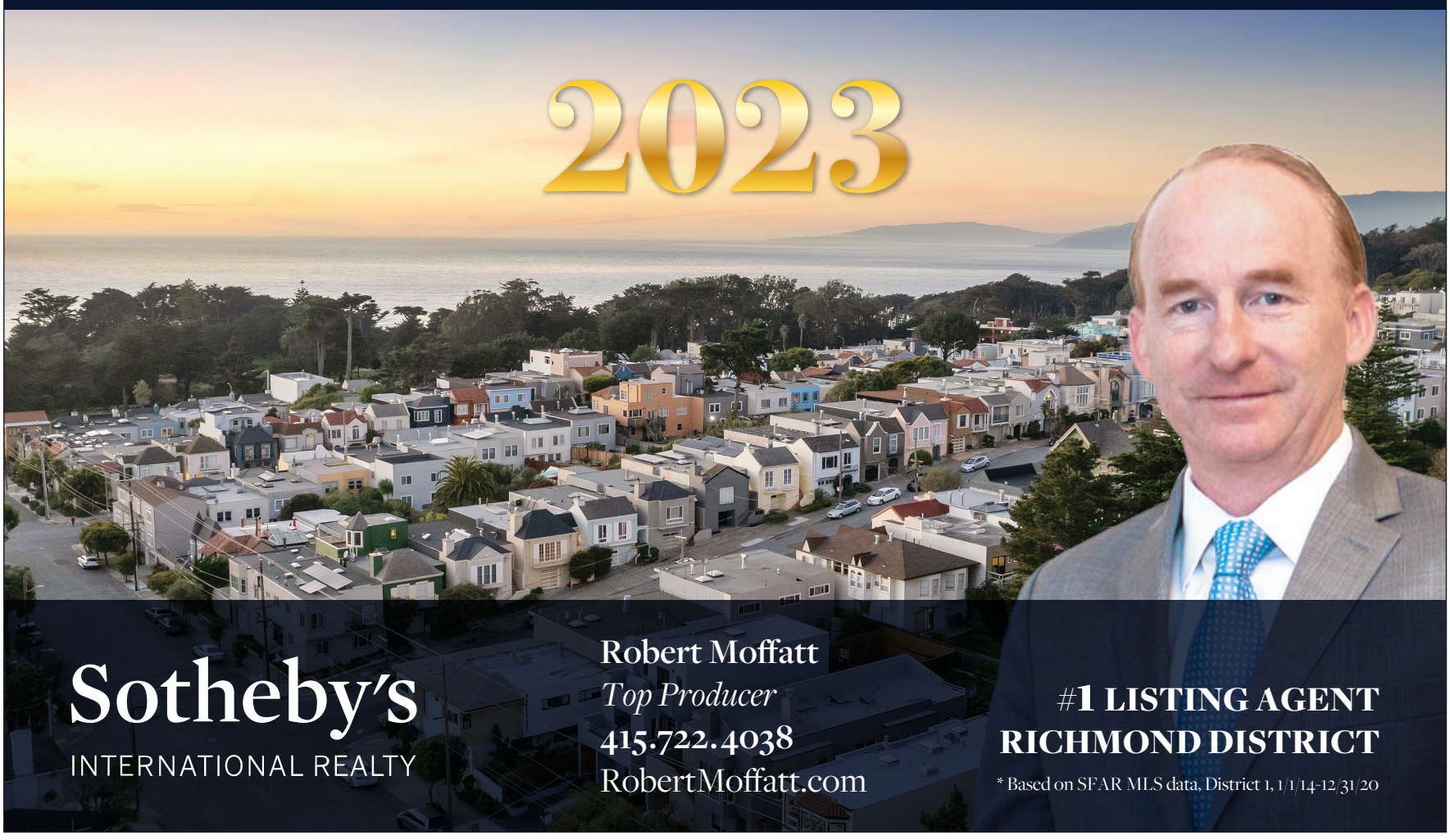

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Assembly

Assemblymember Phil Ting

Lunar New Year Holiday Proposed

Gung Hay Fat Choy!

The Year of the Rabbit is here. I wish you and your family good health and prosperity.

I marked this occasion by introducing AB-264, a bill giving California's community colleges the flexibility to observe the Lunar New Year (LNY) as a state holiday without increasing the number of days schools are closed. They could, for example, combine Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays as one holiday and add LNY as another.

Hate incidents against the Asian American Pacific Islander community are still happening, and a Lunar New Year holiday would help foster greater cultural understanding. It gives students a time to reflect on the special significance of this celebration and to encourage acceptance. We're better as a society when we create opportunities for communities to learn about each other.

I give credit to City College of San Francisco Board of Trustee President Alan Wong who got other members to support a resolution last year, urging the state Legislature to amend the California Community College Education Code to allow the LNY observance.

Since Lunar New Year is the most widely observed holiday for families in California's Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, Wong says Asian and immigrant community college students at CCSF and other schools throughout the state have had to decide between going to class or celebrating with their parents and grandparents. He added that, at a time when the Asian community is still reeling from hate-motivated incidents, this is our opportunity to promote cultural understanding and support the Asian community.

AB-264 is great follow-up to AB-2596 by my colleague, Assemblymember Evan Low. His bill was enacted this year declaring Lunar New Year a state holiday for state employees. However, it does not apply to community college districts, and I'm happy to step up and answer the call. As a champion of steering more resources to AAPI communities, I know this designated holiday speaks volumes in saying we matter.

For those of us who have kids here in the San Francisco Unified School District, we know the district has observed the Lunar New Year as a holiday for decades. It makes sense to give community colleges the same latitude. According to the Pew Research Center, Asian Americans make up 17% of the state's population, the highest share outside of Hawaii.

Lingyi Li, an international student at City College and president of the school's Chinese Culture Club, would welcome a Lunar New Year holiday. She wants the time to reconnect with relatives in China, allowing her to reflect on her culture, history, and spend time calling and meeting with friends and family.

The hearings for AB-264 will begin in the spring. I will try my hardest to get it approved.

Meanwhile, I'd also like you to join me in celebrating the Lunar New Year. I will be participating the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade again this year. It will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, at 5:15 p.m., starting at the corner of Market and Second streets. Then on Friday, Feb. 17, state leaders, including myself, will be hosting a celebration at our offices at 455 Golden Gate Ave., 2-4 p.m.

I hope to see you at both events!

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

City Hall

Supervisor Connie Chan

Moving Geary Forward

Geary Boulevard is a critical commercial corridor in the Richmond District. It has been home to several iconic local businesses, including House of Bagels, Tommy's Mexican Restaurant and Joe's Ice Cream. It connects the foggy west side to downtown San Francisco and is the main transit artery of the district. Pre-pandemic, the 38-Geary bus lines were the most traveled bus route west of the Mississippi River.

The pandemic negatively impacted local businesses and essential workers citywide, although many neighborhood commercial corridors in the Richmond District have been resilient and continue to thrive, with new businesses opening on Outer Balboa and Inner Clement. However, central Geary continues to see vacant storefronts and less foot traffic, not to mention the deteriorating Alexandria Theatre. With the impending recession, and with transit service levels below pre-pandemic levels, we need to ensure we are doing everything we can to support our local merchants and workers during these difficult times.

With the upcoming Geary Boulevard Improvement Project, more commonly known as Geary Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), beginning its last stages of installation of transit-only lanes on Geary from Stanyan Street to 34th Avenue, my office felt it was important to work with community members and local merchants to solicit feedback. We worked closely with local merchants to identify ways to mitigate the impact of the project on our small businesses. Meanwhile, we also heard from many transit riders about their needs to have the 38-Geary bus lines fully restored.

Similar to Van Ness BRT, the Geary BRT was initially approved with center-running transit-only lanes, combined with water and sewer system upgrades. But during the pandemic, the SFMTA installed temporary emergency transit-only lanes along the Geary Boulevard corridor for service efficiency. As a result, data found that side-running transit-only lanes produce similar service efficiencies with less construction and funding required. So, in December 2021, I asked for funding from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority in order to shift the project to side-running transit-only lanes, with pedestrian and traffic safety improvements.

Combined with future improvements, this new design for Geary BRT can serve as a model to improve public transit efficiency, increase community benefits and mitigate negative construction impacts – that is, if it is done right.

This is why I am asking the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to prioritize the existing needs of our transit riders and to restore the 38-Geary to full service before implementing the Geary BRT project. I also asked for the project to prioritize the most critical pedestrian and traffic safety improvements, with the water and sewage system upgrade construction starting later in 2026, after the full restoration of 38-Geary and recovery of the local economy.

To support our local merchants, SFMTA has agreed to my request to halt the extended meter parking on Saturdays and Sundays in the Richmond. And my office will continue to work with SFMTA to provide financial assistance to merchants to modify their shared spaces to accommodate this project. After we have prioritized these most impactful services, then SFMTA can proceed with the conversion of angled parking to parallel parking between 15th and 26th avenues, if the parking conversion is still deemed necessary.

San Francisco can achieve an equitable local economy that supports local businesses and improves and builds mixed-use housing development along our transit corridors. We can start with Geary BRT so the Richmond can become a model for the rest of the City. We can do that by ensuring that the Geary BRT supports our local merchants, while improving pedestrian safety, delivering transit reliability and paving the way for a robust transit corridor to serve tens of thousands of riders daily.

Connie Chan represents District 1 on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at 415-554-7410 or chanstaff@sfgov.org. Find an archive of her columns online at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

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Learning to Coexist With at Least 100 Coyotes in San Francisco

By Linda Badger

No one knows exactly how many coyotes are roaming the streets and parks of San Francisco. San Francisco Animal Care and Control estimates that there are approximately 100 coyotes in the City, although the number of sightings would suggest more.

Last year, iNaturalist.org, a wildlife tracking venture between the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, recorded approximately 500 "research grade" observations of coyotes in San Francisco, more than half of which were in Golden Gate Park.

For many decades, these California natives were nowhere to be seen in the City. In 2002, however, experts believe coyotes from Marin County somehow crossed the Golden Gate Bridge to "recolonize" San Francisco. There is anecdotal evidence that a trapper (illegally) drove coyotes across the bridge and released them in the Presidio. Ever since, coyotes have made themselves at home, thriving in neighborhoods across the City. Amid reports of San Franciscans abandoning the City in droves, this highly intelligent, adaptable native appears to be here to stay, enjoying our many green spaces, rodents, abundant trash offerings and, sadly, sometimes pets.

The California Department of Fish and Game, SF Animal Care and Control, SF Recreation and Park Department and the Presidio Trust have all worked to develop strategies to reduce conflicts between coyotes and humans. Experts stress that coyotes rarely harm humans, with fewer than 20 coyote bites reported across North America annually. By contrast, dog bites reportedly send 1,000 people a day to emergency rooms for treatment.

Coyote Alert
If you encounter a coyote, keep yourself, your pets, and the coyote safe by leaving the area slowly.
NEVER FEED or Leave Food Behind
Keep Your Distance If Approached, Make Loud Noise
Keep Dogs On Leash & Under Control
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Report Sightings to Animal Care & Control
(415) 554-9400 or acc@sfgov.org
South Africa
Meso American Cloud Forest
California Native
Moon Viewing Garden
Succulent Garden
Redwood Grove

A sign in Golden Gate Park's Botanical Garden advises visitors to "Walk. DO NOT RUN" if they encounter a coyote. Coyotes likely present a greater threat to pets than to people. *Photo by Linda Badger.*

Coyotes are also beneficial to our ecosystem, eating rats and other rodents that spread disease. Weighing such benefits with the imperative of public safety, city and state officials have developed several strategies to promote peaceful coexistence with urban coyotes, focused on managing human behavior.

First, officials are educating the public to stop feeding coyotes. Aside from being illegal, feeding coyotes causes them to lose their natural fear of people, making it more likely that coyotes will approach us, perhaps aggressively. It is also important that people stop attracting coyotes into their neighborhoods by leaving pet food, fallen fruit or garbage outside for coyotes, or their preferred prey, rodents, to eat.

Second, officials are educating the public that if they encounter a coyote, avoid it. Walk (don't run) away from the coyote – they are very territorial and are likely to be satisfied to see you leave. Note that although dogs and coyotes are relatives (or maybe because of this), they do not get along. Keep your dog on a leash, and walk away, picking up small dogs or dragging the larger ones, if necessary, to satisfy the coyote that you are leaving. The coyote may even follow you and your dog, "escorting" you out of its territory. Officials also advise "hazing" the coyote to scare it away. Hazing can include a range of unfriendly human behavior, from yelling and waving your arms to using whistles or throwing objects towards (not at) the coyote.

Third, park officials are placing signs or limiting access to areas where coyotes have been observed. Be sure not to walk your dog in an area cordoned off due to coyote "pupping" season. Coyotes aggressively defend their dens, especially if a dog is nearby.

Coyotes exhibiting aggressive behavior can also be trapped. California law prohibits them from being relocated, so this is a lethal option. In 2021, federal wildlife officials targeted and killed a coyote that was repeatedly charging toddlers in the Botanical Garden. Some cities routinely trap and kill coyotes. In San Francisco, killing coyotes is a measure of last resort, and only aggressive individuals are targeted.

According to Dr. Jonathon Young, an ecologist with the Presidio Trust, non-lethal strategies have proved successful in reducing conflicts in the Presidio.

Coyotes likely present a greater threat to our pets than to ourselves. In a three-year period, Culver City recorded that 83 cats were killed by coyotes. Dr. Niamh Quinn, a University of California scientist, conducted a study of coyotes' stomach contents in Southern California and found evidence that 35% of the coyotes tested had consumed some cat. No data was available on dogs because of the similarity between dog and coyote DNA. The logical solution is to keep cats indoors, keeping them safe from coyotes. Dogs should be kept on a leash. As a reminder, it is illegal to have a dog off leash in Golden Gate Park, except in specified dog play areas.

If you see a coyote behaving aggressively, report it to SF Animal Care and Control at 415-554-9400 or online at ACC@sfgov.org. Also, to add to coyote database observations, go to iNaturalist.org. Sightings in the Presidio should be reported to coyote@presidiotrust.org.

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License Needed to Raise Rent

Being a rental property owner in San Francisco gets harder and harder each year. There is a new law that passed in 2020 that requires owners of residential units to get a license before they can increase the rent. This law went into effect for buildings with 10 or more units on July 1, 2022 and will go into effect for all other residential buildings on March 1, 2023 with updates required by every March 1 thereafter.

The City sent out a Notification of 2023 Rent Board Fee and Housing Inventory Requirements in November of 2022 with information on how to fulfill this requirement. Owners or their representatives can log on to portal.sfrb.org to provide the information, or mail in a paper form to do so.

The information they are asking for is how is the unit being used. Is it exclusively owner-occupied? Is it occupied by a "non-owner?" If it is owner-occupied, no other information is required.

If the unit is non-owner occupied, then they ask for the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, approximate square footage, the date the occupancy commenced or vacated, rent paid by the tenants and the utilities included in the rent. It also asks for the contact information in the event that the City needs to contact someone in regard to the building. Lastly, it asks for a business registration number for units with more than five units.

When registering the property, the site asks for the parcel number and a PIN that is included in the notice. If the notice is lost or not received, you can get another PIN by calling 311.

If an owner does not report this information to the Rent Board, there is no financial penalty involved, but then is not eligible to increase the rent. If an owner tries to increase the rent without a license, the tenant can contact to Rent Board and any increases imposed at that time will be disallowed.

So why is the City imposing this housing inventory requirement at this time? They state the reason is because the City does not have an accurate list of all the units that are subject to rent control. In doing this, it will give the Board of Supervisors more data and information to go on so that they can make better decisions on housing and rent control needs.

Also, the Rent Board shall use the information it receives to create a housing inventory that may be used for purposes of inspecting and investigating the level of housing services being provided to tenants, investigating and analyzing rents and vacancies, monitoring compliance with the rent control ordinance, generating reports and surveys, and providing assistance to landlords and tenants and other city departments as needed.

This is the first step in preparing for the vacancy tax that passed as Prop. M in the November 2022 election. Starting on Jan. 1, 2024, property owners with at least three units that have been vacant for more than 182 days will be taxed between $2,500 and $5,000 per empty unit. If the vacancies continue for longer, that penalty can increase to as much as $20,000 per empty unit. The money will go toward subsidizing affordable housing.

Single-family homes and duplexes are exempt from this vacancy tax. The Controller's Office estimates that about 4,000 units are likely to qualify for this vacancy tax. Without a rental inventory it would be difficult for the City to know which units are vacant.

Being a rental-property owner is already difficult in this town. There was a news article this month that the largest apartment owner in San Francisco just defaulted on his loan. With rent increases limited to 60% of CPI, and expenses going up and more and more unfavorable rent control laws for the owners, it is no wonder that many investors have decided to get out of the rental property market altogether.

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email at johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of John M. Lee's columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Richmond Homes Sold in January*

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Price
106 15th Ave.	4	2.5	2,278	$1,749,000
845 26th Ave.	5	3	2,423	2,100,000
14 Parsons St.	4	2	2,800	2,125,000
3136 Anza St.	5	4	2,824	2,195,000
480 15th Ave.	3	1.5	2,460	2,300,000
2608 Fulton St.	4	3.5	3,195	2,700,000
619 47th Ave.	6	4	4,667	2,800,000

Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.

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Why is the City pitting neighbor against neighbor?

To our mayor, supervisors and SFMTA:

Please restore Lake Street to the way it was before the pandemic hit three years ago. The current plan of limited vehicle access to the roadway was forced upon the public by the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) – and the results have been devastating for our neighborhood.

• **Don't pit neighbor against neighbor:** The mayor and our elected supervisor should support restoring Lake Street so people who live here can get access to their homes without being continually threatened or harassed. We've heard vehicle-hating radicals say: "I've got your license number and will report you for a moving violation." There has always been room for everyone on Lake Street, which has bicycle lanes and wide sidewalks;

• **No need for additional recreation space:** Lake Street is bordered by the Presidio National Park and other Golden Gate National Recreation Area sites as well as Mountain Lake Park. There are numerous other parks and recreational sites in the immediate area, including Golden Gate Park, Ocean Beach, Lands End, Lincoln Park and at least a half dozen sites. There is no need to seize a valuable public right-of-way for additional recreation opportunities;

• **Roadblocks:** Until recently, Lake Street had roadblocks, leading the public to think driving on the roadway was illegal;

• **Gridlock:** California Street is now gridlocked with traffic, especially since the SFMTA removed traffic lanes from the east-west thoroughfare;

• **San Francisco government's perversion:** It is unconscionable that the City pays the SF Bicycle Coalition and Walk SF about $1 million a year so they can lobby to keep parks and roadways car free, despite the extreme hardships they cause for people just trying to live their lives;

• **Don't use the pandemic as excuse for major policy changes:** When the pandemic hit three years ago we were all forced to adapt. We did not sign up for the wholesale destruction of our city's transportation infrastructure, especially since the poorly-run Muni is nowhere near a viable "transit first" alternative.

Our public access has been hijacked by a rogue SFMTA and a few radicals in the non-profit community. They do not work for the greater good of all city citizens, being divisive and inconsiderate of the needs of seniors, families and the disabled. For more information, go to www.sfmta.com/projects/lake-slow-street.

Restore full access to Lake Street

Contact our elected officials and tell them you want Lake Street returned to the way it was before the pandemic!

Contact SF Mayor London Breed, at 415-554-6141 or by email at MayorLondonBreed@sfgov.org, **AND District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan**, at 415-554-7410 or by email at ChanStaff@sfgov.org, **AND the SFMTA** at 415-646-4470 or by email at slowstreets@sfmta.com.

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Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

Dollars and Sense

It has been a new year at City Hall where Supervisor Aaron Peskin from Telegraph Hill was elected president after 11 roll call votes by our district heroes, almost tying Congressman Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield for roll call votes. This columnist wishes President Peskin two years of leadership achievement. My hero, U.S. President Harry Truman, once reminded Americans: "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, imagination and all the unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."

The mendacity of some elected officials continues. Late last year after the November election, serious misuse of taxpayer money by Nate Albee, legislative assistant to San Francisco Assemblyman Matt Haney, was exposed. Before employment by the State of California, Albee was a paid lobbyist for Juul and a campaign consultant for various local ballot measures and candidates, including those supported by, and featuring, Haney. Thereafter, Albee received payment for political services from Honey Mahogany for Supervisor and No on B (a proposed S.F. Charter amendment) and thereby more than doubled his monthly state salary. As of Oct. 22, 2022, he had received $7,400 from the No on B campaign and $42,603 by loser Mahogany's supervisorial campaign, a total of $50,003. (Haney, naturally, publicly supported both losing campaigns!) Albee continues to solicit clients by means of his Albee Strategies website for political campaigns and "consulting" in violation of California Government Code Section 19990(b), prohibiting a state employee from working on a political campaign during working hours and Assembly rules barring conflicts of interest. Following a formal complaint by new Board President Peskin and the San Francisco Taxpayers Association, the Assembly Committee on Legislative Ethics is investigating the obvious legal violation.

Peskin also spearheaded garbage collection competition for the first time in San Francisco history, albeit only for city and county properties, of which there are many – like City Hall, Golden Gate Park, the Veterans Building, Davies Symphony Hall and Opera House. The low bid ($10 million per year) was from Allied Waste Industries, Inc., nee Republic Services, which, among others, collects Daly City garbage on a low-bid contract, having thwarted Recology's previous monopoly. Taxpayer savings will now occur.

Ratepayer savings for residential and commercial properties must also occur. Controller Ben Rosenfield's investigation of former Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru's corruption from 2017 until 2021 resulted in Recology, Inc.'s agreeing to reimburse ratepayers $23.4 million for more overcharges after paying ratepayers $94.5 million in 2021 for overcharges. Peskin and his colleagues must now enact an ordinance requiring competitive bidding for residential and commercial trash, plus recycling. Present rates have expired after five years and Rosenfield plays to promulgate and implement new rates this summer. A new ordinance empowering the controller to set rates or creating competitive bidding should occur. I trust Rosenfield. I don't trust elected officials who thirst for campaign contributions.

Last November, the Wall Street Journal noted the District of Columbia's next mayor might "be elected by votes from illegal immigrants." The City Council passed a bill authorizing any adult with 30 days of D.C. residency to vote. Thus, foreign college students in D.C. can vote this year, unless the Congress objects with a joint resolution of the Senate and House, which hasn't happened. One reader points out that D.C. license plates contain the slogan "End Taxation Without Representation," meaning D.C. Congressional representatives who can vote, adding that a Russian diplomat just posted to Washington won't pay U.S. taxes irrespective of his or her time in such post, thus resulting in representation without taxation instead of taxation without representation. Another advocates giving them "a chance" (to vote) observing they can't do worse than D.C. voters who elected a city council that enacted "such nonsense in the first place." I concur.

New York State's legislature gave unsuspecting taxpayers their own legislative Christmas gift last month, raising their annual salary 29% from $110,000 to $142,000. (Is inflation that high in the Empire State?) That's more than California legislators receive at $119,000, plus a per diem of $214 for each day of session. (The D.C. City Council again leads the nation at $152,813 and $210,000 for the chair. Our local legislators receive about $158,000 annually for leading the "City Family.")

Continued on page 12

Tumlin

Continued from page 1

Richmond District has the fewest ways in and out of it than any neighborhood in the City.

"There are two ways in and out to the north; and, depending upon how you count them, two or three ways in and out to the south," he said. "You've got a better east-west circulation, but you get all gummed up in the rest of the traffic congestion in the eastern part of the City."

He said part of the traffic-flow problem throughout the west side is the old traffic signals that need upgrading and modernizing.

"We know, because we've got the data, that the dominant mode of transportation for the west side, including the Richmond, is driving," Tumlin said. "And that's one of the places where we start."

Looking into the future, this is only the start.

"While driving is clearly the most convenient mode of transportation, it's also the least geometrically efficient," he explained. "When I drive a car, I take up 10 times as much roadway space as I do when I walk, or I bike, or I take Muni. One of the math problems that we're stuck having to deal with is that, in order to make it possible for people to be able to drive, we have to make it safer and more convenient for people who want to walk or bike or take transit.

"That tension is one of the primary factors that we deal with in all of our planning throughout San Francisco and that's more true on the west side than anywhere else in the City."

That wasn't the only tension Tumlin had to deal with that night. There were some heated comments by some of the audience members.

The owner of Joe's Ice Cream, Sean Kim, objected to the agency's Geary Boulevard Improvement Project. He said that at least 15 and possibly up to 28 angled parking spaces would be removed, then converted to parallel parking to make room for bus-only lanes, so he was worried about how this would affect the merchants along that commercial corridor.

"Right now we didn't recover from the pandemic yet," Kim said. "Then we expect higher inflation and high interest rates, and then a recession coming, a lot of layoffs downtown."

This means he and the other merchants might lose a lot of money, so he asked if the SFMTA could save angled parking and still have bus-only lanes.

Kim said the changes could cause a financial strain which could threaten his business, and also his home.

Tumlin explained that there are two stretches of Geary where parallel parking switches to angled parking.

"In order to allow the bus lanes to continue all the way through we would need to convert the diagonal parking to parallel," Tumlin said. "What that would mean is that we would lose a net of about two parking spaces per block."

He estimated that the total parking loss for the overall project from Stanyan Street to 35th Avenue would be about 60 parking spaces.

"We understand that this is a significant issue for the neighborhood, however, having the buses merge from two traffic lanes down to one would result in significant traffic congestion for the motorists and would create conflicts in that place where the bus has to move into the middle traffic lane," he said.

Also discussed was a future regional effort to create another trans-bay crossing called Link 21, a passenger train that travelers could ride between the Sacramento Area and San Francisco, as well as the peninsula and the south bay, without transferring to a different service.

It would tie into a new "trans-bay tube" serving the Transbay Transit Center; then a western extension could run along Geary to Masonic Avenue. One of the challenges of building the rest of the transit line straight out west would mean clearing out enough land in the Outer Richmond for a train yard. And that could be problematic considering property values and the rarity of open spaces.

"Instead, we want to follow the shifting travel patterns that we see on the west side," Tumlin said. "There are various routing options, but (the plans include) continuing it down 19th Avenue all the way to the Daly City BART station, so that we knit the west side to the peninsula, to downtown San Francisco, and to the East Bay and beyond to Sacramento with very high speed, high frequency rapid transit."

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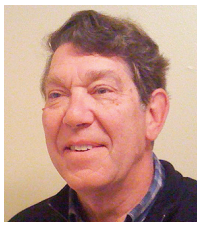
Commentary



Paul Kozakiewicz

What Happened to San Francisco?

San Francisco used to be called "the city that knows how." We put on international expositions and tamed the sand dunes. We had good, smart politicians who worked together for the greater good. We were a destination for fortune hunters, bohemians and entrepreneurs.

What happened?

Now, we can't do anything right.

We've become a mecca for homeless people; there is a mental health crisis on our streets; drug dealers kill a couple of people a day with fentanyl and other dangerous drugs; three members of the School Board had to be recalled because of gross malfeasance; the district attorney had to be recalled because he thought he was still a defense attorney; the SF Municipal Transportation Agency is purposefully making it as difficult as possible to drive a vehicle; the SF Recreation and Park Department does whatever it wants; the FBI's investigation has turned up crime and fraud in numerous city departments; the SF Board of Supervisors is comprised of members who don't have the mental capacity to run a large city; ditto for the accidental mayor, whose biggest accomplishment before taking over a $13 billion city budget was running a community center on Presidio Avenue; labor unions have banned non-union firms from doing some work in the city, leading to fewer firms bidding on city business and significantly driving up city costs (It is no longer OK to pay "prevailing wages," a slap in the face for working people); Laguna Honda Hospital might be forced to shut down; more than half of the city's once flourishing African-American community has left the city (the Hispanic population is declining too); criminals are openly plying their craft without fear of repercussions; businesses are struggling to survive and City Hall is non-responsive and punitive.

I could go on all day. Finding faults with San Francisco today is like shooting fish in a barrel.

So, how did we get here? And how can we make our City work again for everyone?

Politics has a lot to do with it.

San Francisco was a Republican town until the early 1960s. The Republican National Convention was held at the Cow Palace in 1964.

In the '60s, the City's population evolved to become a Democratic Party majority.

Today, 63% of city voters are registered as Democrats.

But within the San Francisco Democratic Party, there have been two factions battling it out for decades – liberal (so-called corporate) Democrats and progressive (so-called socialist) Democrats. It's no surprise that the city's problems have grown significantly with the rise of progressive ideologies, which ride high on ideals, but are not always grounded in reality.

For example, it is easy to pass laws that require every vehicle in California and all appliances in every home to be 100% electric. It's more difficult to create the transmission lines and megawatts of electricity that would be required to power all of these devices, especially in an eco-sensitive manner.

After Mayor Willie Brown beat progressive SF Supervisor Tom Ammiano for mayor in 1996, the progressives started to get organized. Today, a majority of the Board of Supervisors is considered progressive. As well, progressives now dominate many of the City's boards and commissions that make important decisions in city government.

So, how did the progressives become the dominant force in San Francisco Democratic politics?

Seize the DCCC

Progressives took control of the SF Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC), which controls important candidate endorsements and donations. Many Democrats take the DCCC slate card seriously and follow its recommendations.

There is an arcane process where candidates for the DCCC line up a slate of candidates and encourage supporters to vote, usually on a Sunday at a union meeting hall in the Mission District.

Control of this committee was crucial to the building of the Willie Brown and John Burton political machines, and today it is crucial for the progressives to maintain. The process also gives labor and allied non-profits an outsized influence since they turn out their members to vote.

Divide and Conquer

The Democratic Party pushed for district elections about 20 years ago, leading to our small City being divided into 11 districts. The candidates coming out of this process have been less than desirable – in the Sunset District, we got two supervisors who went to prison (Leland Yee and Ed Jew) and in the Richmond District, one supervisor who narrowly escaped a recall attempt (Jake McGoldrick). The quality of candidates running for supervisor has deteriorated exponentially.

Confuse Voters

One of the worst decisions the Democratic Party led us to ranked choice voting. The process is confusing and leads to thousands of San Franciscans' votes being "exhausted," or thrown out.

The recent recall of District Attorney Chesa Boudin is a case in point. After the initial first place votes were counted, Boudin was an afterthought. But after the extra votes were redistributed from the three leading candidates, surprise, Boudin won. About 22,000 votes in the election were "exhausted." It's no wonder he got recalled since he didn't spend time on the west side stumping for votes. He just worked his base and let the magic of numerology take over.

Ranked choice voting is one of the most important tools for socialist Democrats since it allows them to win elections without 50% of the vote. If you can't get a majority at the polls, discard votes from favored candidates until you do.

Eliminate the Competition

Proposition 14 was put on the 2010 statewide ballot by then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenerger, who hoped to open up the primary contest to all voters, regardless of party affiliation. It passed, which now limits only the top two vote getters in the primary election to move on to the general election in November. The CA Democratic Party did little to oppose the proposition.

The proposition favors the largest political parties, the Democrats in urban areas and Republicans in rural areas. Today, it is most likely two Democrats will be on the statewide ballot because of the dominance of Democratic politics in California.

Due to the passage of Prop. 14, political organizations in the state – including the Green, Peace and Freedom and Libertarian parties – were rendered moot after the primary elections and are now struggling to survive.

When it comes to suppressing the vote, Democrats have shown they are just as good as any other party in doing so. With district elections, ranked-choice voting, an open statewide primary election and the progressive takeover of the DCCC, our candidate options are limited at the voting booth and our votes are eliminated in a bizarre voting scheme.

Sliding Down a Rat Hole

With progressives firmly in control, numerous bad decisions have been made in the past two decades, taking us down a route of urban decay and lawlessness.

We've taken the wrong fork in the road on many issues, including the production of housing in the City, the forfeiture of large areas of the City for open drug dealing, the treatment of the mentally ill and the incessant pandering to the political left.

As a lifelong Democrat, I am disappointed in the direction my party has taken in our one-party town. Why is it so difficult to run a town with less than a million people? Why do we make so many bad decisions?

Unfortunately, the rise of progressive politics in San Francisco has a lot to do with it.

We've taken some bad turns, but it's never too late to correct course. We just have to realize our follies and start electing smart politicians who make smart decisions that benefit everyone, and not just pander to a chosen few.

Paul Kozakiewicz is an editor and former publisher of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers.

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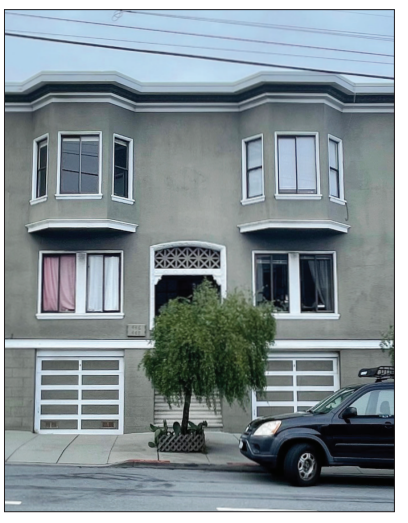

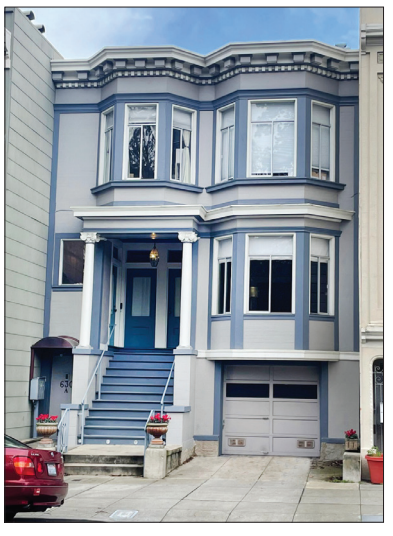

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Commentary

Julie Pitta

Breed's Campaign Against the Poor

The memories are still fresh. Many San Franciscans spent holidays with loved ones, sharing hearty meals snug in their homes. The stormy weather, while inconvenient, posed no real danger to those who enjoy the luxury of staying indoors.

Not so for the many San Franciscans whose only shelter is a flimsy tent. Their homes are under constant threat from a city that treats them like so much garbage. Homeless sweeps allow the more fortunate to ignore abject poverty in one of the world's wealthiest cities.

Despite a recent court order banning them, city workers swept homeless settlements during some of the worst weather in recent San Francisco history. At the time, Mayor London Breed was out of town, first in Napa partying with wealthy political donors before jetting off to Las Vegas to watch a 49ers game in a private box on the 50-yard line.

According to the City, an estimated 7,750 people live on San Francisco streets. The overwhelming number were City residents before becoming unhoused. Not only do they face the constant fear of losing their homes and possessions, they are often in physical danger as demonstrated by an attack on an unhoused woman in North Beach earlier this month.

Sweeps are more than cruel, they are illegal. A 2018 federal court decision was unambiguous: Cities cannot prosecute people for living on the streets unless they can offer shelter to every homeless person living on the streets.

That case is the foundation for a lawsuit filed last September by the Coalition on Homelessness against the City of San Francisco. The suit alleges that San Francisco is violating the constitutional rights of unhoused people and asks that the City redirect the millions it spends on homeless sweeps toward affordable housing.

Two days before Christmas, the coalition asked a federal judge to ban homeless sweeps. At the public hearing, the City offered little in the way of a defense.

"The City concedes that there is a shortfall, in the thousands, between available shelter beds and people who are involuntarily unhoused?" asked Judge Donna Ryu. "That's right," answered Deputy City Attorney Jim Emery.

Ryu sided with the coalition, leaving the mayor seething.

Breed has long insisted that "we don't do sweeps." However, a public records request unearthed a trove electronic communications in which the mayor did just that, ordering city employees – including Police Chief William Scott – to remove unhoused people from their resting places. An Aug. 22, 2019, message asked Scott to relocate an unhoused man from a bench near a favorite lunch spot.

"Man sleeping on bench on Hayes St. near Gough. Can someone come ASAP? I'm in the area having lunch," Breed's message read. "Copy. We are sending a team," the police chief replied.

In the coalition lawsuit, Kaki Marshall, a former director for the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, revealed that the mayor issued "daily mandates" to clear homeless settlements.

"Mayor Breed ordered us to carry out sweeps because she did not want to be seen near unhoused people while she was at lunch, at the gym, at fundraisers, or at meetings on public business," Marshall said. "There were many times when I was working for San Francisco that I believed I was being asked to break the law."

The mayor, it seems, considers homelessness an esthetic problem rather than the humanitarian crisis it most certainly is.

Sweeps continued despite Judge Ryu's December ruling. While many were still recovering from holiday over-indulgence – and at the beginning of the brutal bomb-cyclone storms – homeless settlements were being broken up by city workers.

Dehumanizing unhoused people has consequences. On Jan. 10, a video of a North Beach art gallery owner spraying an unhoused woman, elderly and Black, with a garden hose, went viral. Gallery owner Collier Gwin's assault is nothing more an extension of policies that treat human beings as trash, simply rubbish to be washed away. Gwin has yet to be charged with a crime. His art gallery, however, is receiving police protection.

Meanwhile, San Franciscans use social media to pile on against the most unfortunate among us. On platforms like Nextdoor, they spread pernicious lies like often-repeated myth that unhoused people are not "real" San Franciscans when, in fact, most were city residents before losing their homes. Gwin's actions make sense in an atmosphere in which victims are blamed for their condition. Hateful speech, as we've discovered all too painfully, has consequences.

In contrast to the mayor, District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston offers a compelling prescription for the homelessness crisis. First, Preston says the City should make available more than 1,000 units now sitting empty, including 900 permanent supportive housing rooms ready for occupancy. Further, it should consider the purchase of hotels and empty buildings.

"This is doable," Preston states. "But it takes leaders embracing the challenge, instead of denying the problem."

January is a month for new beginnings. My wish for San Franciscans is the recovery of their compassion. Imagine losing your home and with it your possessions, some being your only reminders of a happier time. As for the mayor, I hope she finds her conscience and stops what has been a ruthless campaign against the City's poor.

Julie Pitta is a neighborhood activist. She is a former senior editor for Forbes Magazine and staff writer for the Los Angeles Times. You can email her at julie.pitta@gmail.com. Follow her on Twitter: @JuliePitta.

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How has pain been treated in the past? Are drugs and shots the answer?

Until now, people have masked their pain by frequently taking prescription pain pills or by getting cortisone, epidural or steroid injections. This type of relief masks the cause, is temporary, and more often lead to even more pain, or worse yet, addiction to drugs.

How Pain is Now Being Treated

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

20th ANNIVERSARY

I started Jong Financial Management Consultancy on Jan. 1, 2003. I am a native San Franciscan, currently living in the Richmond but also have lived in the Sunset. We have property management clients in both districts. I love the outdoors, spending time in Golden Gate Park and on Ocean Beach. My background is in the financial services, technology, fintech, and proptech industries. Our firm specializes in cash management, fraud prevention, internal controls, software; systems implementations and employee recruitment; training. We help our clients complete corporate or back office projects, develop financial plans, improve processes, create application user manuals, and coordinate with regulatory agencies. For more information about our services, please contact me, Nancy Jong, atnjong.jfmc@att.net or call 415-386-7463.

BIRDING FOR ADULTS, TEENAGERS AND KIDS

Heron's Head Park: Cargo Way and Jennings Street, Saturday, Feb. 11, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Trip Leader: Alan Hopkins. Meet at trailhead. Parking available – please do not leave valuables inside your car. Journals and checklists provided. Binoculars on loan. Leisurely walk through these magnificent wetlands. Bring pencils and binoculars if you have them. Volunteers with scopes accompany the walk. Rain cancels. Members: Adult ($10), Teenagers (free) Non-members: Adult ($15). For more info. contact info@sfnature.org.

Birding for Kids and their Families: Heron's Head Park, Cargo Way and Jennings Street, Saturday, Feb. 11, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Children 7 -12 must be accompanied by adult. Trip leaders rotate monthly. Members: Adult ($10), Non-members: Adult ($15). Children free. For more info.contact info@sfnature.org.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stance on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of points of view. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Felton Institute, a non-profit social services provider, has an opening for a community liaison: The part-time temporary position is with the Community Liaison Program, Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS). Job duties: Provide technical assistance by teaching basic computer skills on a smart device (smart phone, tablet or laptop). Skills include downloading and using the Zoom app, teaching Google Services, as well as navigating the internet to access resources helpful for daily living. Enjoy working with older adults and people with disabilities. Proficient in Cantonese and English. Send resume to Jobs@felton.org.

FELTON TECH SQUAD

Felton's Tech Squad is providing free basic tech support for older adults and people with disabilities in the Richmond and Sunset districts. Ask questions regarding how to navigate your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Drop in for a one-on-one session:

- Friday, Feb. 3, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Richmond Library (351 Ninth Ave)
- Friday, Feb. 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Anza Library (550 37th Ave./Geary Blvd.)
- Friday, Feb. 24, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Ortega Library (3223 Ortega St.)

For more information, call 415-474-1558 or email techsquad@felton.org.

EVENTS AT THE SF PUBLIC LIBRARY, RICHMOND BRANCH,
351 NINTH AVE., 415-355-5600
FREE FILMS CELERATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- **Wednesday, Feb. 1,** 3-4:15 p.m, "Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask." Innovative essay film on Frantz Fanon (1925-1961), theorist of 20th century anti-colonial movements. Directed by UK artist and UCSC professor Isaac Julien. NR, 71 min., 1995.
- **Thursday, Feb. 2,** 4-5:30 p.m., "Malcolm X." Documentary portrait of the African American militant leader (1925-1965). Director Arnold Perl's script was later used by Spike Lee for his 1992 biopic. PG, 91 min., 1972.
- **Saturday, Feb. 4,** 3-4:45 p.m., "Rebirth of a Nation." Experimental hip-hop musician DJ Spooky's cinematic remix of D.W. Griffith's 1915 classic-but-racist epic, The Birth of a Nation. NR, 100 min., 2007.
- **Thursday, Feb. 9,** 4-6 p.m., "The Glass Shield." Drama. A young black cop struggles to hold his own in an all-white police department. Directed by Charles Burnett ("Killer of Sheep"). "A rigorous, angry piece of work" – Los Angeles Times. PG-13, 109 min., 1994.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 15,** 3-4:15 p.m. (repeat of Feb. 1). "Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask."
- **Thursday, Feb. 16,** 4-6 p.m., "Do the Right Thing." Spike Lee's classic drama about racial tensions in a Brooklyn neighborhood. Included in the Library of Congress's National Film Registry. R, 120 min., 1989.
- **Thursday, Feb. 23,** 4-6 p.m., "Love Jones." Romantic drama. Two Chicago urban artists discover modern courtship and experience a Love Jones. "... frankly romantic and erotic and smart." – Roger Ebert. R, 110 min., 1997.
- **Wednesday, March 1,** 5:30-7:15 p.m. "Baran." Romantic fable about an Iranian construction worker who falls in love with an Afghan refugee, from the writer of "The Color of Paradise" (1999). In Kurdish, Persian and Azerbaijani, with English subtitles. Rotten Tomatoes rating of 89%. PG, 94 min., 2001.

Workshop: Create Stunning Container Gardens. Whether you have a small garden, balcony, deck or a simple window box, you can bring pops of color to your outdoor space by creating lush container gardens. Arete Nicholas, RN, MA, Geriatric Management and Consulting Master Gardener, San Mateo/San Francisco Counties, will discuss design, color, plant placement and how to choose the right plants as keys to creating stunning containers overflowing with flowers, herbs and trailing plants. You will also learn how to care for your containers and refresh them as the seasons change. at the Richmond Branch Library, Program Room, Saturday, Feb. 11, 1 p.m. For more information, call 415-355-5635 or email marina.sobolevskaya@sfpl.org.

Listen to Asheba, a musical storyteller who specializes in calypso, the musical and folkloric oral tradition of Trinidad, Asheba's homeland. Stories of hope and happiness are the focus of his songs, which range from original lullabies to fast tempo tunes to remakes of classics. His music is for all ages. Richmond Branch Library, Saturday, Feb.18, 11 a.m. For more information, call 415-355-5638.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy February birthday to Oscar Alonso, Dave Bardfeld, Ezaad Bastani, Paul Bradlyn, Clara and Michelle, Darian Costa, Astrid and Doug Downen, Brendan Fox, Pamela Hirchak, Missy Keehan, Eloise Kelsey, Howard and Jason Michael Leigh, Roosevelt Lue, Peter Miller, Kelly Poole, Ryder Sanders, Santina Maria Sullivan, Kimberley Thompson, Courtney Wong and Edwina Yuan. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

MEET THE EDITOR OF THE RICHMOND REVIEW

Meet the editor of the Richmond Review: You are invited to meet with Michael Durand, editor and publisher of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers and the RichmondSunsetNews.com website. Bring your story ideas, feedback, suggestions, questions, announcement items and advertising inquiries. We are also welcoming new writers and photographers interested in contributing stories and photos. One Richmond storefront, 802 Clement St., every second Wednesday of the month, 1-2:30 p.m. For more information, call 415-706-6428 or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Scheduled appointments not necessary but appreciated.

ONE RICHMOND SHOP EAT LOCAL FIRST (SELF) CARD

The SELF Initiative is an ongoing, comprehensive, open-ended program. Visit the One Richmond website for a listing of all participating businesses and describing the discounts or personalized promotions. Membership cards with a QR code are being distributed to families in the Richmond District, as well as to those who sign up to become a One Richmond member. Cardholders can scan the QR code to learn about specific merchant discounts or promotions and present their membership card at checkout to receive the appropriate discount. Pick up a card from The Richmond Neighborhood Center, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, or visit One Richmond office, 802 Clement St., 1-5 p.m. weekdays. For more information, go to onerichmondsf.com/about-self-plan.

PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HIRE

Tyrone Bartoli has been a professional photographer since 1995. He is available for a wide range of photo shoots. Call for a free consultation: 415-846-7838. Also, check out his Instagram page @tyronebartoli. Ask for the Richmond Review discount. Learn more at TyroneBartoli.com.

SAN FRANCISCO NATURE EDUCATION

SF Nature Education offers youth internships at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park on Saturday mornings in the spring of 2023. The deadline for applications is Friday, Feb. 24. For more information, visit sfnature.org/youth-internships.html. SF Nature Education also offers two monthly birding field trips around San Francisco for adults, teenagers as well as for kids and their parents. Next trip: Crissy Field. For more information, visit sfnature.org/calendar.

SENIOR NEEDS A BENEFACTOR

I am a senior lady who needs a place to live at a private residence in the west area of San Francisco or Daly City. I have excellent references, am quiet, read a lot, am good company and live by Christian values. Call 415-561-9275 if you or someone you know can provide me a home.

STAMP COLLECTOR AND STAMP COLLECTIONS

Stamp collector is buying stamps and stamp collections. I am buying the "older stamps" from the 1800s to 1930. American Philatelic Society member since 1986. Pictures are appreciated. Call or text message 415-533-0761.

Announcements: $1 per word, 20 word minimum. Share birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, births, obituaries, graduations, sports highlights, business accomplishments, retirements, college admissions, etc.

FREE: Add a name to the monthly birthday list or submit free community events at no charge. We support small businesses: Free announcements for small businesses celebrating an anniversary or other significant milestone or event. Send announcement to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Announcements will run in the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers (36,000 copies) and on RichmondSunsetNews.com (20,000+ views per month). Ads must be pre-paid. Deadline: 20th of the month. Mail check to: P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116. Call 415-706-6428 or email editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com for more details.

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Commentary

Nancy DeStefanis

Notes From a Progressive

As we leave behind the atmospheric rivers that have tormented California this winter, our hearts go out to all the Bay Area folks and those throughout the state who have been left stunned and throttled.

Going forward, I want to stress two things you can do to make our City more habitable.

First, stop taking single use food ware with your takeout order.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed SB-54 on June 30, 2022, which will begin phasing out single-use plastics in California. How it works: The bill requires all packaging in California to be recyclable or compostable by 2032, cutting plastic packaging by 25% and requiring 65% of all single-use plastics to be recycled.

Currently, only 9% of the world's 6.3 billion metric tons of plastic waste is recycled. The remaining 91% accumulates in landfills or litters the environment, and most plastics take more than 400 years to break down. Because single-use plastics are so lightweight, they are easily carried by the wind to litter the ground or end up in open water, causing harm to birds and marine life. Learn more at nycfoodpolicy.org.

San Francisco has already banned single-use food ware! On June 1, 2022, AB-1276 was passed, mandating restaurants may only offer disposable food accessories upon customer request for takeout and delivery orders. This new single-use food ware bill means less waste for California restaurants. Under the law, single-use food ware accessories are defined as: utensils, chopsticks, condiment cups and packets, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, cup sleeves and lids. Condiments packets include single-use packets of ketchup, mustard, hot sauce, salsa, soy sauce, sugar and salt.

SF's Department of the Environment (SF Environment) works with restaurants through outreach and education so they can comply with the law. However, these single-use items continue to be included with take-out orders. Please insist on no single-use items when you order. Food delivery services must give you the option online to ask for utensils. If you don't opt for the utensils, they are forbidden from including with your food order. SF Environment is the agency responsible for compliance and outreach/education. One can provide information about a non-compliance with SF zero waste policies through the web at: https://tinyurl.com/569sv5kz.

Second, make San Francisco more accessible for people with disabilities.

Disability access complaints can be made by calling 311 or online here: sf.gov/report-building-problem.

Depending on the type of complaint, it will be assigned to appropriate staff for investigation.

Department of Building Inspection (DBI) is limited with the types of complaints they can enforce for various reasons, but are currently underway with their Accessible Business Entrance Program to help businesses become compliant with accessible entrance requirements. If you have any questions about that program, please visit sf.gov/accessible-business-entrance-abe-program or call 628-652-3724.

Around Town

One of our City's most precious landmarks – the Castro Theatre – is under siege! The Historic Preservation Committee is scheduled to meet on Feb. 1 to vote on the expansion of the historic designation to include the sloped floor and theater seating. Stay tuned.

Nancy DeStefanis is a member of the Richmond District Democratic Club, has been politically active in the Richmond and Sunset districts for 28 years and in San Francisco for more than 40 years.

Kopp

Continued from page 8

Congratulation to the Examiner editorially for characterizing city government as "bloated" and "inefficient," comparing S.F. with 38,403 city employees, and total wages of $4,097,629,775 for our 842,754 residents to Los Angeles, with 65,261 city employees and $6,109,152,580 total wages for 3,819,538 residents. San Diego, with 1,374,790 residents employs just 12,305 employees, costing taxpayers $963,764,091 in wages. As of Jan. 1, however, Delaware raised its exemption from taxation on retirement and military pension income from $2,000 to $12,500 for those 60 and older, Rhode Island elevated its similar exemption from $15,000 to $20,000, and even Illinois increased its Child Tax Credit to 20% from 18% of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). When, if ever, will City Hall catch tax reduction fever from San Diego, L.A., Delaware, Rhode Island and Illinois. I guess "tax reduction" is not in the Progressives' playbook. That brings to mind an old observation concerning the difference between Democrats and Republicans: Democrat raise taxes and spend. Republicans cut taxes and spend.

Eight hours into his criminal trial, the defendant pled guilty. The trial judge asked: "Why didn't you do that at the beginning and save the court's time?" "Well," replied the defendant, "until I heard all the evidence, I thought I was innocent."

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, member of the SF Ethics Commission and retired judge.

Find an archive of Richmond Review columns online: RichmondSunsetNews.com

'Then and Now': Geary Boulevard and 28th Avenue

Above: Sea Cliff Fine Cleaners, 6350 Geary Blvd., at 28th Avenue. This 1961 photo shows the old signs: "Established Since 1918 on Geary Blvd." and the "Sea Cliff Fine Cleaner." *Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.*

Right: This photo from Jan. 25, shows how some things have changed in 52 years. The old signs are gone, replaced by the "Gary on Geary" sign. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

POLICE BLOTTER

Burglary of a Residence, Unlawful Entry: 600 Block of 39th Avenue, Dec. 18, 10:23 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of a burglary.

Upon their arrival, the officers detained a person pushing a bicycle down a driveway. The original 911 caller positively identified the suspect as the person he had seen entering his neighbor's garage.

The suspect said that she had ingested methamphetamine and acid. She was transported to San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) by SF Fire Department (SFFD) medics.

The owners of the property responded to the scene and positively identified the recovered stolen items.

The suspect was booked at County Jail for burglary and possession of burglary tools.

Shoplifting (Less Than $50), Shoplifting ($200-$950), Outstanding Warrant: 700 Block of Seventh Avenue, Dec. 19, 4:10 to 7:25 p.m.

Multiple sergeants and plain clothes officers, with additional sergeants and officers as a uniformed arrest team, conducted a burglary and fencing organized retail crime (ORC) operation at a supermarket. During the course of this operation the team detained 10 subjects.

Of the 10 subjects detained, two were released, three were cited for misdemeanor shoplifting (less than $950) and released at the scene. Four suspects had active arrest warrants and were booked at County Jail. One juvenile was taken to the Community Assessment Referral Center (CARC) and cited out to the care of his father, per Juvenile Probation's instruction.

Driving While Under the Influence of Alcohol (DUI), Hit and Run, Causing Injury: Cook Street at Geary Boulevard, Dec. 21, 8:22 p.m.

Officers observed a vehicle strike a raised center median and then park in a nearby gas station parking lot. At the same time, the officers were flagged down by the victim of a hit-and-run collision involving that vehicle.

The suspect was detained, and objective signs of alcohol impairment were noted.

A collision investigation determined that the suspect was driving the vehicle, that he was the party at fault in a traffic collision and that the suspect's actions caused injury to another. Officers administered standardized field sobriety tests (SFSTs).

The suspect was arrested and transported to SFGH for medical treatment, where he refused to submit to a blood test. The officer authored a search warrant and affidavit, and contacted a judge of the SF Superior Court, who authorized the search.

The suspect was booked at County Jail for felony driving under the influence and felony hit and run.

DUI With Injury: 4000 Block of Geary Boulevard, Dec. 22, 1:06 a.m.

While investigating a vehicle collision, an officer observed that one of the drivers was displaying objective symptoms of alcohol intoxication. The suspect stated, "Yes, I did drink alcohol."

The officer attempted to administer SFSTs, but the suspect could not keep his balance and fell over twice. For the suspect's safety, the officers concluded probable cause existed to place the suspect under arrest.

The suspect was transported to Richmond Station to take a breath test, the results of which were .24% and .25% blood alcohol content (BAC) – the legal limit is .08% BAC.

The suspect was booked at County Jail for felony driving under the influence.

Robbery With Force, 2600 Block of Geary Boulevard, Dec. 24, 5:19 p.m.

The victim worked for loss prevention and was monitoring a suspect.

The victim waited outside by the front door when she was notified the suspect was approaching. As the suspect exited the store, the victim identified herself. The suspect shoved her several times, pushing her backwards.

IPS security detained the suspect and placed him in handcuffs. The victim stated she wished to press charges and signed a citizen's arrest form against the suspect.

The suspect was booked at County Jail for felony Estes (use of or threat of force against a store employee while shoplifting) robbery and two active warrants for burglary.

Homicide With a Gun, Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person: 100 Block of Willard North, Dec. 28, 4:34 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of a person breaking into a residence.

When officers arrived on scene, they located a male victim suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. The officers rendered aid and summoned medics to the scene. Despite the lifesaving efforts of the emergency responders, the victim succumbed to his injuries and was declared deceased on scene.

Investigators from the San Francisco Police Homicide Detail responded to the scene and took over the investigation. During the course of the investigation, investigators identified the suspect in the shooting, developed probable cause to arrest him and placed him under arrest on the 800 block of Bryant Street.

The suspect was transported to San Francisco County Jail and booked for charges of homicide and a felon in possession of a firearm.

Outstanding Warrant: 700 Block of 45th Avenue, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

As part of a sexual assault investigation, sergeants from the Special Victims Unit/Sex Crimes authored an arrest warrant and a search warrant for the suspect's DNA.

With support from Richmond Station officers, the suspect was contacted and taken into custody without incident.

The suspect was transported to Richmond Station, where he was booked on the outstanding warrant.

Bank Robbery With Force: 3600 Block of Geary Boulevard, Dec. 30, 11:53 a.m.

Officers responded to a report of a robbery at a bank.

The victim stated that the suspect was wearing a matte-black motorcycle helmet propped on the top of his head, and his face was covered from the nose down by a black gaiter-style covering.

The suspect handed the victim a note and said, "You know what this is!"

The victim said she became very scared as she realized it was a hold-up note. The victim tried to remain calm and read the note, opened her till and collected several one-hundred-dollar bills. The suspect was located and detained by officers mid-block on Fourth Avenue between Geary Boulevard and Clement Street.

When officers asked the suspect if he had taken anything from the bank, the suspect motioned to his front right pocket. When officers checked the suspect's pocket, they located a large amount of stolen currency.

The suspect was booked at County Jail for felony robbery and burglary.

Discharging a Firearm in a Grossly Negligent Manner: 400 Block of Ninth Avenue, Dec. 30, 8:55 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of possible shots fired.

Upon their arrival at the scene, the officers entered the apartment complex and a witness said, "He fired a gun out there," and then pointed toward the living room.

Officers detained the suspect, who was intoxicated and yelling at them to get out of his house. The suspect stated that he had a firearm but refused to tell the officers where it is was. Officers located a spent 9mm casing on the balcony. The officers asked the suspect if he fired a gun on the balcony and he said, "I was cleaning my gun and I fired a shot in the air."

The suspect was placed under arrest, then complained of chest pains, so SFFD medics arrived to assess him and then transported him to SFGH for further evaluation.

A family member told the officers where the firearms were located. Two firearms were recovered and booked into evidence.

An officer contacted a judge and obtained a gun violence restraining order for the suspect.

The suspect was booked at County Jail for discharging a firearm in a grossly negligent manner.

Forcible Entry and Burglary of a Non-Residential Property: 3500 Block of Geary Boulevard, Jan. 1, 2:21 p.m.

Officers driving an unmarked police vehicle, working a graffiti abatement assignment, observed the suspect tampering with a gate and making entry into the common area of a property. Officers detained the suspect, who said he went in to look for dry clothes.

A computer records check of the suspect revealed that he had two active arrest warrants, for burglary and vandalism. The suspect was placed under arrest for his warrants.

During an arrest search, officers located a small bag containing debit and credit cards with the names of several different victims.

The suspect was booked at County Jail for burglary, theft of credit card information, possession of stolen property and two active warrants.

Burglary, Hot Prowl, Unlawful Entry: 200 Block of El Camino Del Mar, Jan. 2, 3:10 a.m.

When the victim's daughter came to check on her mother, she found the front gate and the front door unlocked. The daughter then noticed the victim's safe, containing cash and silver coins, was stolen from the garage.

Her 98-year-old mother was home that night but was not hurt or injured. The suspect or suspects are currently outstanding.

Bank Robbery with Force 3600 Block of Geary Boulevard, Jan. 3, 3:39 p.m.

A bank teller reported that the suspect came running from the back of the bank to her window yelling, "My kids need to use the bathroom." The suspect then leaned up against her window and said, "Give me everything you have in your drawer." The teller, in fear, took money from the drawer and placed it on the counter.

The suspect grabbed the money and fled out of the bank. The suspect is currently outstanding.

Non-Residential Burglary, Forcible Entry: 6000 Block of Geary Boulevard, Jan. 13, 6:05 a.m.

A resident heard a loud noise outside and then heard blaring music. The resident went downstairs to the sidewalk and noticed a store's front window was shattered and the suspect standing inside the business playing loud music.

Officers responded to the break-in burglary with the suspect still inside the business.

The suspect was detained and then arrested for burglary, vandalism and resisting arrest.

Graffiti Arrest: 200 Block of Clement Street, Jan. 11, 1:09 a.m.

An officer patrolling the area observed the suspect in the act of tagging a building's wall with a paint marker.

The suspect was detained and positively identified. The officer was unable to speak with the building's owner in the middle of the night to determine the value amount of damage on scene for a felony arrest and booking. The subject therefore had to be issued a misdemeanor citation for the graffiti and being in possession of graffiti tools, then released from the scene after promising to appear by signing his citation, per SFPD policy.

Find an archive of Police Blotter columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Clam Lynch

Continued from page 1

when he starts, but once settled on a starting image element, he surrenders to the process by adding or painting over elements as a way of feeling his way through.

Lynch has had many interesting chapters in his life which have preceded his current successful art career and artistic evolution.

He grew up in Maine and left his home due to a chaotic home life when he was 15 years old. Wanting to see the world, he moved to New York's Lower East Side with some older kids during the late 1970s, which he remembers as very dangerous at the time. As a punk rock kid, he cut his teeth selling vintage clothes on the street in Tompkins Square Park and formed a makeshift family with other younger runaways. After a night of hard partying, two performance artists took him in and introduced him to the world of art. Thus began his performance art career.

He went on to perform at New York institutions, such as The Kitchen, creating larger-than-life zany colorful installation costumes to go with his performances. Supported by performance art grants, he also traveled to Japan to tour his acts not long after. His performance work morphed into the entertainment world when he and a collaborator, Stephen Holman, were approached by Nickelodeon to develop and act in the live action television shows, "Life with Loopy" and "The Shrimpskins."

Just like a painting, many experiences were brushed onto the canvas of Lynch's life. In the 1990s through 2000s he added another layer by moving to Los Angeles to work as a music video production designer for numerous musical clients, such as Metallica, R.E.M., The Smashing Pumpkins and the list goes on. Constantly evolving and bringing his creative ideas to new endeavors and mediums, he even authored and developed characters for the popular children's gothic book with a twist, "Ruby Gloom's Keys to Happiness."

Artist Clam Lynch stands in front of his work entitled "Wolf Bulb," which features a wolf wearing a top hat inside a lightbulb. *Photo by Noma Faingold.*

Lynch later created his own solo shows, notably "Cut The Crap," where he performed as a comedic motivational speaker. The show even featured Roseanne Barr. After a time living in Utah and dedicating time to teach art to youth, today he lives with his wife Margo in San Francisco and is the proud father of a daughter, Eloise. In addition to painting, he and his wife sell vintage clothing gems through Wonderland Vintage.

Lynch translates the unseen into reimagined compositions with unique style. His name itself, Clam, is rare, one that stuck after he took on the moniker around 13 years of age instead of his given name, James. His paintings are similar to his arrangement of tattoos, the content of which are many, colorful and unapologetic, but notably all symmetrical on his body, except for a large diamond in the center of his chest. His work and life possess a rare quality of both unrestrained eccentricity and balanced grace. The world is made better for the playful innovative ethos that Lynch offers through his art, and he hopes his work can continue to "make people happy and touch them in a way that makes them smile, think and move them in some way."

Alexandria

Continued from page 1

the murals and the chandelier inside," District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan said. "I always have urged the property owners to really consider preserving them."

Woody LaBounty of the local organization San Francisco Heritage and the founder of the Western Neighborhoods Project is skeptical that the sign had to be removed, as opposed to stabilized.

"The thing that feels disingenuous about it is that it took two days to basically cut this thing off and it wasn't easy," LaBounty said. "They were yanking and pulling and having a hard time. I feel like it could have just as easily been secured rather than just pulled off and cut to pieces."

Phone calls, voicemail messages, emails and texts seeking comment for this article from the owner of TimeSpace Group, real estate developer Yorke Lee, did not get a response by press time.

San Francisco Planning Department records show that an application to build housing on the site was filed last September, but, so far, no building plans have been submitted.

As reported in the July 2019 issue of the Richmond Review, Lee had previously submitted and received approval from the SF Planning Commission to build a 13,322-square-foot "swim center" featuring two swimming pools on the first floor, a 9,820-square-foot "learning center" on a second floor and a 9,135-square-foot "business center" on a third floor.

But before any of that got started, the pandemic hit.

"When I took office, when I talked to them about moving the plan forward, because of the pandemic they were having a hard time securing construction loans," Chan said. "So, it paused for a while.

"During that time I worked with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) to try to find them a community revitalization grant that could make that plan a reality, but they didn't qualify for the grant," she said. "I worked with Assemblymember Phil Ting to try and acquire the site, so perhaps we can build 100% affordable housing as a city project, but I think that we couldn't come into agreement between the assessed value by the City and the price that they wanted to sell the land. So we couldn't come to an agreement with that."

The theater building will be 100 years old this coming November – it closed in 2004. Since then, there has been more than one attempt at finding a new use for it.

"They've had at least two different proposals over the years to do projects there, and both times they were going to preserve the blade sign as part of the project," LaBounty said. "So the only way they can really get away with pulling that blade sign off is in an instance of public safety because of this. This is what bothers me, is that they can neglect and let this thing deteriorate to the point where it becomes a haz-

Continued on page 15

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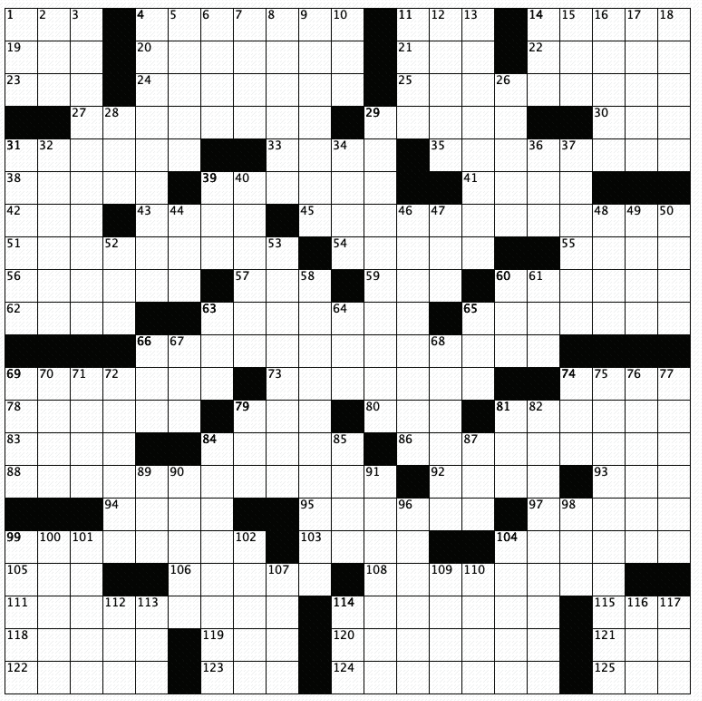
28 Days

Jess Goldstein



ACROSS

1. Train alternative
4. Like most sandals
11. Handheld Sony console
14. Slowly went
19. Work in a studio?
20. Distributor of money
21. Nail polish brand with the color "Taupe-less Beach"
22. Touch-and-go
23. World Cup chant
24. Unaware of
25. Big 108-across game
27. Zodiac sign for most of 108-across
29. Cooking glassware
30. Sara ___ Bread
31. Desert animals
33. Reckless, as a decision
35. More like mud
38. Letters on a cereal box
39. Star of the Sorbonne
41. Whim
42. 17th Greek letter
43. Seat
45. Holiday observed by many cultures in 108-across of most years (but not 2023)
51. Completely healed
54. "Dirty Computer" artist Janelle
55. Crimson Tide, to fans
56. "A Writer's Life" memoirist Gay
57. DAMN. track
59. 60 secs.
60. How some sheets and pillows are sold
62. Old Irish tongue
63. Baltimore baseballers
65. Best Supporting ___
66. Busy time for florists during 108-across
69. Famous San Francisco street with eight hairpin turns
73. Overdue, as birthday wishes
74. "I know a ___"
78. Thwarts
79. "I'm laughing," in SMS
80. Certain lightbulb
81. Food court pizza chain
83. Pal
84. Dough
86. Part of a recovery effort
88. U.S. designation of 108-across since 1976
92. Ukrainian capital
93. Hang loosely
94. Lead, as a committee
95. Tropical tree
97. Act expressively
99. Turns off and on again
103. Primary color
104. Trimmed back
105. "___ You Experienced"
106. Dental damage
108. Shortest month of the year, and the theme of this puzzle
111. 108-across New Orleans celebration
114. Hours after dawn
115. Lemon or lime quencher
118. To be, in Bogota
119. Med. test
120. Bookstore section
121. Floor covering
122. Writer Zora ___ Hurston
123. Large expanse
124. Toy transporters
125. Chinese zodiac animal

DOWN

1. Steamed bun
2. Clickable address, for short
3. Flattens
4. Uses Google Sheets
5. Earthenware jars
6. Mideastern title
7. Former California State Senator Hancock
8. Certain motorcycle race
9. Leave port
10. "No seats left" letters
11. Small bunch of flowers
12. Urges
13. Famed Oahu surfing location
14. It was burnt in the '90s
15. Tease
16. Cause of a health scare
17. Bird also called a flycatcher
18. ___, The Creator
26. Radiate
28. Proof abbr.
29. Extraordinary
31. Put on, as a show
32. Building stone
34. Run-down region
36. Wet blanket?
37. Castro establishment
39. Winter hours in NYC
40. "And ___ off!"
44. Oklahoma tribe
46. Beverage with a star ingredient?
47. Competed in a marathon
48. Let up
49. Iowa campus city
50. "Shoot!"
52. Queen's attendant
53. Galosh
58. Meeting place on vacation
60. Target of GOP attacks
61. Hog's home
63. Getting on in years
64. ___ Nas X
65. Total
66. Storage container
67. "___ Poetica" (Horace poem)
68. Singer Neil
69. Gyro filling
70. Track shape
71. Intro to physics?
72. Playwright Bertolt
74. HS senior's test
75. Exercise area for inmates
76. Decorated
77. Dressed up
79. Spanish article
81. Homophone for 123 across
82. Beers and seltzers, for two
84. Some elections
85. Russian sea
87. 1997 sci-fi comedy
89. Mauna ___
90. Start of every game?
91. Insult
96. "Hand me a cold one"
98. Wall, in Gaul
99. Slurped noodles
100. Get the lead out?
101. Casper rival
102. Terrify
104. Drink in a bowl
107. Thailand's home
109. Mitzvah preceder
110. Wedding band
112. Indian lentil dish
113. Make angry
114. Husbands, or a wife
116. Pair
117. Omlette base

The once venerable Alexandria Theatre on Geary Boulevard at 18th Avenue is now rundown, covered with graffiti and has recently had its blade sign removed. This photo was taken toward the end of January shortly after the sign was removed. *Photo by Thomas K. Pendergast.*

Continued from page 14

ard and then they benefit because they get to take it away and not have to deal with it in their projects."

He also questions the true priorities of the owners, noting that the previous theater parking lot was covered by a new housing project.

"What they were looking for is to make the money off building housing on a parking lot in the back. And they were going to ignore the historic building as long as possible because it was going to be more costly and they'd have to deal with how to readapt it," he said. "So once they built the housing they lost interest, I think, in the entire building and I think it's just been a place to park money."

"This is so sad," Chan said. "It's sitting here, dilapidated and becoming a blight by the day. What can we do as a community to move this forward to either make sure that it is a community space or better yet, community space and affordable housing?

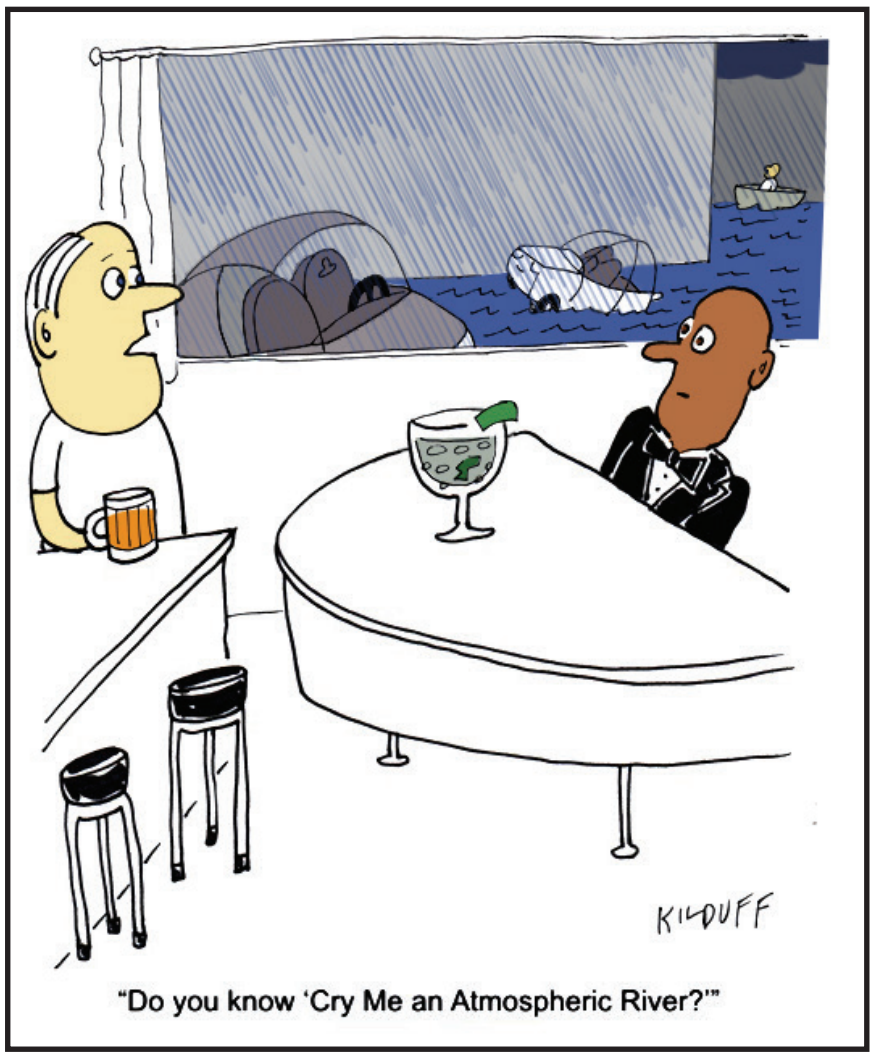
"I think a lot of people that I'm talking with would just like to see it as something," she said.

"It's on the owners to step up here," LaBounty said. "It's not an issue of its history or preservationists stopping a project or anything like that. It's about the owner stepping up and taking care of their property and respecting the neighborhood, communicating with neighbors and not letting it be graffiti covered, because it's going to become a public safety hazard. They shouldn't benefit by letting it deteriorate so that they can tear it down and have a clean slate.

"That doesn't make any sense. It's a bad example for the whole City."

"Now that mother nature has brought this to a head for us," Chan said, "maybe it is really time that we look to the future and have a conversation in earnest about what we can do with this site."

Kilduff's Korner by Paul Kilduff



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